



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairwoman Betty T. Yee

1st District – San Francisco

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BETTY T. YEE RELEASES ASSESSMENT PRACTICES SURVEY FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Betty T. Yee, Chairwoman of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced an assessment practices survey report on Santa Cruz County. As the agency responsible for promoting statewide uniformity and consistency in property tax assessment, the Board reviews each county's property assessment practices and procedures once every five years.

The report provides an overview of how well the assessor's duties are performed and identifies where improvements should be made. Every assessor is required to identify and assess all properties located within the county - unless specifically exempt - and maintain a database or "roll" of the properties and their assessed values. If the assessor's roll meets state requirements, the county is allowed to recapture some administrative costs.

The Board's report focused on the quality of the 2005-2006 Santa Cruz County assessment roll, which contained about 106,700 assessments totaling about \$28.37 billion in value. The report found most properties in Santa Cruz County are assessed properly, and the overall quality of the assessment roll meets state standards. The Assessor has improved the business property assessment program by timely completing audits of business property accounts that are mandatory every four years.

The report contains several recommendations for the assessor, which include reviewing all filed welfare claim forms to ensure claimed use of property qualifies for exemption, properly assessing private interests on government-owned property, and including sales tax in the assessed values of vessels.

Chairwoman Betty T. Yee was elected to her post in November 2006. Her district includes many of California's coastal counties, from Del Norte to Santa Barbara, and includes the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

[Click Here to View the July 2007 Santa Cruz County Assessment Practices Survey Report](#)

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